

National Statement delivered by
Head of Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
Director General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology,
Ms. Hrin Nei Thiam at the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima, Peru
1 to 12, December 2014

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

1. At the outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and the People of Peru for your warm welcome and for hosting the conference with excellent arrangements in this beautiful city of Lima.
2. During this auspicious occasion of the 20th Conference of the Parties, we gather here to express our deep concern about global warming and to strengthen our commitment to achieving the Convention's objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and protecting the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind.

Mr. President,

3. As the IPCC's 5th Assessment tells us, climate change impacts like high temperatures, intense rain, severe flooding and prolonged drought have become a common weather pattern across the world. The Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to these impacts.
4. Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters intensified by climate change. Myanmar had the painful experience of enduring Tropical Cyclone Nargis in 2008, which caused the loss of 138,000 lives, severe devastation of infrastructure, and socio-economic impacts on our people and our nation. Two years later, Cyclone Giri struck Myanmar and again caused significant damage to people and property. Unusual floods caused by intense, heavy rains and drought caused by extreme high temperature occur more frequently than before. Therefore Myanmar supports all actions and measures that reduce CO₂ emissions.
5. The Myanmar Government pays great attention to environmental problems, including climate change. Myanmar values harmony between economic development and environmental protection, and is pursuing sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental considerations into economic development planning.

Mr. President

6. As a UNFCCC party, Myanmar has already submitted its first INC and NAPA, and is poised to implement its 2nd NC. The Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction

for 2009-2015 integrates resilience into sectoral development planning under our National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

7. To mainstream environment and climate change, we are reviewing existing environment policies and strategies, developing a Climate Change Policy, Strategic Framework, and Action Plan through the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, and implementing prioritized adaptation activities under our NAPA.
8. Myanmar places great emphasis on the IPCC's conclusion that developed countries must reduce GHGs emissions from 25 to 40 % below 1990 levels by 2020 and from 80 to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. To do so, the 2015 Agreement must be based on the Convention's principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. To develop this agreement and address pre-2020 ambition, developing countries like Myanmar emphasize the importance of adaptation, financial support, capacity building, and technology transfer, while developed countries focus on the mitigation efforts needed to close the gap. Myanmar also acknowledges mitigation and adaptation as primary elements of Parties' INDCs and underscores that capacity building, finance and technologies are key to achieving mitigation and adaptation targets in all countries.
9. Myanmar acknowledges the LDC's input, submitted by Nepal, which calls for the work plan to include technical and financial support given the risks and impacts of Loss and Damage, as it will continue to be a very crucial issue for Myanmar.
10. Myanmar believes that this Conference's outcomes will help us mitigate climate change without stifling economic growth, by identifying low carbon development pathways that promote win-win synergies between the climate and the economy, while achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Myanmar supports the shift towards low carbon green growth.
11. Myanmar strongly believes that forest conservation and sustainable forest management are important for mitigating global climate change and reducing extreme weather events. In this context, REDD+ has significant potential to contribute to Green Economic Development by protecting global environmental resources and avoiding land degradation, improving livelihoods, reducing emissions to close the pre-2020 emission gap, and enhancing adaptation. Having significant potential to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change and to enhance forest carbon stock, We urge sustainable financing through the GCF and other sources for REDD+ implementation in developing countries.

12. Because climate change is already having significance impacts causing major loss and damages, the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Mechanism is an urgent priority. Therefore Myanmar strongly recommends that it receives a distinct funding stream under the GCF and holds a prominent place within the 2015 agreement.
13. Myanmar supports the inclusion of ambitious mitigation and adaptation objectives in the INDCs. To do so, Myanmar reiterates the need for developed countries to support developing and least developed countries for capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer.
14. In conclusion, we expect that the Lima negotiations for a new global agreement will be constructive and based on respect for the Convention, with the ultimate goal to reach a comprehensive and legally binding agreement in Paris in 2015. We wish the conference great success. Thank you.